

# Coronavirus – Looking after your mental health

## How to look after your mental wellbeing during coronavirus (COVID-19)

As we have to stay at home it is important to take care of our mind as well as our body. It is common to feel worried, scared or helpless about the current situation. It is OK to feel this way, share your concerns with others you trust or you could try a [charity helpline or webchat](#).

Here are some tips and advice on how we can keep on top of our mental wellbeing and cope during times of uncertainty. Share these with friends and family to look after yourself and those you care about.



## Top Tips for your mental wellbeing:

- 1. Connect with others-** Maintaining healthy relationships with people we trust is important. Stay connected via email, social media, facetime and telephone. Adjust your social media intake if it is making you anxious. If you **haven't got anyone to talk to you can call emotional support lines like [SANEline](#) & the [Samaritans](#)**
- 2. Be active** -Our physical health affects how we feel. It is important to eat healthily, drink enough water and exercise regularly. Build physical activity into your daily routine for example cleaning your home, dancing to music, [seated exercise](#), online workouts.



## Useful

### Local Contacts

#### MK Talk for Change

Offers access to talking therapies and mental health care

Tel: 01908 725099

[support@talkforchange.org.uk](mailto:support@talkforchange.org.uk)

#### Kooth

Online counselling for young people

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

#### Mind BLMK -Existing services

replaced with phone and/or email support on

Tel: 0300 330 0648 or

[hq@mind-blmk.org.uk](mailto:hq@mind-blmk.org.uk)

#### Mental Health Crisis

If you or someone needs urgent mental health crisis support you can call the

**Urgent Care team on 01908**

**724365 or call 999 or 111**

For non-urgent mental health issues contact your GP.

#### Official Guidance

**Coronavirus: what you need to do**

[www.gov.uk/coronavirustacttheirGP](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirustacttheirGP)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/)

3. **Take notice & focus on the present** - Engage with nature. Open the windows to get fresh air, watch the birds, make the most of any private outdoor space, tend to houseplants, listen to natural sounds apps. If you have a private garden spend time outside.
4. **Stick to the facts & limit your news intake** - Do not stay glued to the news . A constant stream of news can cause anyone to feel anxious or distressed. You could set yourself a specific time to read updates or limit to checking a couple of times a day – use trustworthy sources such as [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk).
5. **Have a routine** - Maintain a sense of routine and try to follow your ordinary routine as much as possible. Wake up and go to bed at healthy times, get enough sleep. Include time to relax.
6. **Keep your mind active** - Do something you enjoy. Find something of value in your day and do something for yourself (download a podcast, watch a box set, art and crafts, cooking, gardening, reading a book, DIY). Take a free [online course](#).
7. **Offer support and help others** - Helping others makes you feel good. If you are able to try and think of things you can do to help those around you safely and in line with official guidance. Find out how you can help [here](#). Check in with friends, neighbours or colleagues who may be self-isolating or vulnerable.
8. **Keep your children informed** by explaining the facts but try and avoid scare stories and over-exposure to the news. Be as truthful as possible. See [talking with your children about world news](#).
9. **Take care of your immediate environment.** - As you are spending a lot of time at home, you may find it helpful to keep things clean and tidy. If you live with other people, it could help to decide together how you'll use different spaces for example spaces for work.
10. **Working from home** - Working from home can be challenging and isolating. Try to keep a structured day, with a routine for work and to keep both formal and social connections flowing with colleagues. Find tips for working at home [here](#)



## Useful links

### Every Mind Matters

[www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/)

### Mind

[www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/)

### Mental Health Foundation

<https://mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus>

### Heads Up

[www.thisisheads-up.uk](http://www.thisisheads-up.uk)

### Five ways to wellbeing

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/5waysmk](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/5waysmk)

## Helplines

**SANEline** - [www.sane.org.uk/](http://www.sane.org.uk/)

Tel: 0300 304 7000 4.30pm-10.30pm daily

### Samaritans -

[www.samaritans.org/](http://www.samaritans.org/)

Tel: 116 123

### Shout Crisis Text line -Text

Shout to 85258

### CALM- CALM is for men in the

UK who need to talk. open 5pm–midnight

Tel:0800 58 58 58

### Young Minds

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544



Public Health - a shared service across Milton Keynes, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire

